* *

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A language module (i) which is attachable to an appliance, (ii) which is configured to communicate with the appliance when so attached, and (iii) which is configured to perform language-specific tasks at the request of the appliance by:

receiving an instruction for language-specific processing from the appliance; and

sending resulting data of the language-specific processing to the appliance.

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2.   The language module of Claim 1 wherein the language module is configured to perform language-specific tasks according to a subject language at the requests of the appliance by also:

receiving data representing a character in the subject language; and

15   sending data specifying a graphical representation of the character to the appliance.

3.   The language module of Claim 1 wherein the language module is configured to perform language-specific tasks according to a subject language at the request of the appliance by

20   also:

receiving data representing a user input gesture; and

sending data representing one or more language units of the subject language in accordance with the user input gesture.

25   4.   The language module of Claim 3 wherein the language units are characters.

5.   The language module of Claim 3 wherein the language units are words.

6. The language module of Claim 3 wherein the language units are phrases.

7. The language module of Claim 3 wherein sending comprises:

selecting the one or more language units according to one or more preceding language units which were previously specified by the user.

8. The language module of Claim 7 wherein selecting comprises:

determining word-continuation relationships between the preceding language units and the one or more language units.

9. The language module of Claim 7 wherein selecting comprises:

determining name-continuation relationships between the preceding language units and the one or more language units.

10. The language module of Claim 3 wherein the language module is configured to perform language-specific tasks according to the subject language at the request of the appliance by also:

sending data representing one or more language unit components which are of the subject language and which correspond to the user input gesture.